



12-08-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of: ) Group Art Unit:  
 )  
 VAN DOREN et al. ) Examiner:  
 )  
 Serial No.: 10/666,433 ) FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
 )  
 Filed: September 18, 2003 )  
 )  
 Atty. File No.: 3944-13-CIP ) Express Mail Label: EL975240596US  
 )  
 For: "A PROCESS AND APPARATUS )  
 FOR IMPROVING AND )  
 CONTROLLING THE )  
 VULCANIZATION OF NATURAL )  
 AND SYNTHETIC RUBBER )  
 COMPOUNDS" )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified patent application by the Examiner, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment. Although Applicants do not believe that any fees are due based upon the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge any such fees to Deposit Account 19-1970.

Please note that the above-identified patent application now claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/102,614 (the '614 application) filed March 19, 2002. Accordingly, it is requested that the present application be examined by Examiner John Teresinski who examined the '614 application since the invention of the present application is related thereto.

No fees are believed due for entering the additional priority claims requested here since this request is within four months of the filing date of the present application. However, if additional fees are due, please debit Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: